

## Message Text

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64

ACTION SS-30

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R 301820Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2794

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY APRIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6359

EXDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS ETRD GATT

SUBJ TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: AFTER PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS NOVEMBER 30 ON INTER ALIA POSSIBLE WORK PROGRAM AS ADVANCED BY EC COMMISSION AND DRAFT UNILATERAL DECLARATION ENVISAGED BY COMMISSION, U.S. AND JAPANESE REPS ACCEPTED EC SUGGESTION GROUP MEET AGAIN WITH DG LONG TO SEE IF PRESENT DIFFERENCES CAN BE FURTHER NARROWED OR ELIMINATED BEFORE COMMISSION SUBMITS PROPOSALS TO 113 COMMITTEE WHICH NOW DEFERRED TO DECEMBER 12. ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING GOOD. ALL PARTICIPANTS STRESSED TENTATIVE NATURE THEIR COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. REPS OF U.S., EC, JAPAN MET NOVEMBER 30 WITH GATT DG LONG TO SEEK WAY OUT OF IMPASSE ON TNC WORK PROGRAM. COMMISSION (HIJZEN), WHICH HAD PROPOSED MEETING, PUT FORWARD CONCRETE SUGGESTION IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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VOLVING SUGGESTED EC DECLARATION THAT WOULD BE MADE AT NEXT TNC MEETING, ESTABLISHMENT OF TNC SUB-GROUPS KEYED TO PARA. 3(E) OF TOKYO RESOLUTION, SELECTION OF NINETEEN WORK TOPICS FOR COMING MONTHS, AND ASSIGNMENT OF EACH TOPIC TO PARTICULAR GROUP.

2. PROPOSED EC DECLARATION CONTAINED FAVORABLE ELEMENTS, E.G. REITERATION OF COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, RECOGNITION THAT AGRICULTURE SHOULDN'T BE ISOLATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS (PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO RECIPROCITY), AND NEED FOR ALL PARTS OF NEGOTIATION TO PROCEED IN PARALLEL. HOWEVER, ALSO ASSERTED EC VIEW THAT ALL AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN ONLY ONE TNC SUB-GROUP. U.S. (BRUNGART) EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FAVORABLE ELEMENTS, BUT NOTED WE DID NOT AGREE CONCENTRATING ALL AGRICULTURAL POINTS IN JUST ONE GROUP, AND WOULD THEREFORE UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE TO MAKE COUNTER STATEMENT STATING OUR OWN VIEWS. IN MORNING SESSION, HIJZEN DID NOT SEEM TO BE BOTHERED BY POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICTING STATEMENTS; IN AFTERNOON SESSION HE SEEMED MORE CONCERNED AND EXPLORED POSSIBLE WAYS OF AVOIDING THIS. WE NOTED THAT FOR US A KEY CONSIDERATION IN CONSIDERING EC TEXT WOULD BE WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUCH THAT LACK OF RESPONSE ON OUR PART WOULD COMPROMISE OUR POSITION.

3. CONCERNING TNC SUB-GROUPS, U.S. SUGGESTED SERIES OF TNC MEETINGS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL ON SELECTED WORK TOPICS, PERHAPS WITH CROSS REFERENCE TO TOKYO RESOLUTION SUB-PARAGRAPHS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE. SUGGESTED SECRETARIAT CHAIR MEETINGS. EC WENT BACK TO PROPOSAL U.S. HAD MADE AT OCTOBER TNC MEETING AND SUGGESTED CREATION OF GROUPS ON BASIS OF PARA. 3 OF TOKYO RESOLUTION (EXCEPT SECTORS AND SAFEGUARDS), WITH EACH OF AGREED TOPICS ASSIGNED TO JUST ONE GROUP. ARGUED AGAINST OUR PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS WOULD DETRACT FROM STATUS OF TNC AND WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE HAVE MEETINGS ON TWO SUBJECTS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

4. GROUP HAD INITIAL DISCUSSION OF WORK TOPICS PROPOSED BY EC, AND U.S. MADE ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS. ONE FAVORABLE POINT WAS THAT CONTRARY TO PROPOSED DECLARATION, SOME TOPICS OF GENERAL APPLICATION (E.E. ALSO RELATING TO AGRICULTURE) WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO TARIFF AND NTB GROUPS.

5. IN RESPONSE OUR QUERY, HIJZEN STATED WORK PROGRAM ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE BINDING ONLY FOR PREPARATORY PERIOD. WE REITERATED CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG PREFERENCE FOR OUR APPROACH PARA. 3 ABOVE BUT INDICATED WILLINGNESS ALSO CONSIDER THEIRS.

6. WE NOTED ANY AGREEMENT WOULD INVOLVE UNDERSTANDING ON CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING UP. SUGGESTED IT MIGHT CONTAIN FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (1) NOTING DIFFERENCES ON HOW AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH (THIS ON ASSUMPTION EC MAKES STATEMENT REBUTTED BY U.S.); (2) AGREEMENT ON WHETHER SUB-GROUPS WOULD BE SET UP AND IF SO WHICH; (3) SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR INITIAL PREPARATORY WORK PROGRAM AND, IF SUB-GROUPS ESTABLISHED, THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO GROUPS; (4) DECISIONS ON DATES FOR MEETINGS; (5) RECOGNITION THAT OTHER TOPICS (OR SUB-GROUPS) COULD BE ADDED AS NEEDED DURING PREPARATORY STAGE; (6) RECOGNITION THAT EVEN IF GROUPS OR TOPICS

WERE KEYED TO SUB-PARAGRAPHS OF TOKYO RESOLUTION WORK SHOULD BE GUIDED BY TOKYO DECLARATION IN ENTIRETY.

7. JAPANESE PARTICIPATION ON THE WHOLE WAS HELPFUL TO US. BASIC JAPANESE LINE WAS THAT PRESENT IMPASSE LARGELY A US-EC PROBLEM WHICH JAPAN WANTS TO SEE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND WILLING ASSIST ANY EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION. KITAHARA PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN SPEAKING AGAINST RIGID COMPARTMENTALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS IN ONLY ONE SUB-GROUP. HE ALSO URGED THAT IF AGREEMENT NOT POSSIBLE ON ALLOCATION OF TASKS TO PARTICULAR GROUPS AND AN AGREED SCENARIO FOR DECLARATION(S) NOT REACHED, WORK SHOULD PROCEED ANYHOW ON SUBSTANCE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANYONE'S POSITION AND COMPROMISE MIGHT BE EASIER AT THAT TIME.

8. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, HIJZEN SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER DISCUSSION AMONG BIG THREE PRIOR TO EC 113 COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 12. LONG SUGGESTED DECEMBER 6 AND WE AGREED AD REFERENDUM; BUT PER TELECON WE NOW ATTEMPTING RESCHEDULE DECEMBER 10 OR 11. MEETING WOULD COVER FULL RANGE OF ISSUES DISCUSSED AT PRESENT MEETING. IN PARTICULAR, HIJZEN EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. COULD FURNISH FULLER INFO ON KIND OF STATEMENT WE WOULD EXPECT MAKE IF EC PERSISTED IN MAKING STATEMENT OF ITS VIEWS.BASSIN

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**To:** STATE INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS  
EC BRUSSELS UNN  
COPENHAGEN  
DUBLIN  
THE HAGUE  
LONDON

LUXEMBOURG

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